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California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Francisco Bay Region

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

February 10, 2006

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
NOTICE OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS
AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW
concerning
Proposed amendments to the
Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin,
establishing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for
PATHOGENS IN THE SONOMA CREEK WATERSHED

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) will consider adoption of an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin ("the Basin Plan") during public hearings on April 12 and June 14, 2006. The proposed amendment would:

- Establish a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and numeric targets for pathogens in the Sonoma Creek watershed
- Incorporate an implementation plan to achieve and support the TMDL

There will be two hearings to discuss the proposed Basin Plan amendment:

DATES:	April 12, 2006 June 14, 2006
TIME:	9:00 a.m. (approximate)
LOCATION:	Elihu M. Harris State Building Auditorium, first floor 1515 Clay Street Oakland, CA 94612
STAFF CONTACT:	Tina Low Water Resources Control Engineer 510.622.5682 tlow@waterboards.ca.gov

Document Review

The proposed Basin Plan Amendment and supporting Staff Report will be available online on February 10, 2006 at
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/sonomacrkpathogenstmdl.htm>. Hard copies may be obtained by contacting Terry Adams, 510.622.2306, tadams@waterboards.ca.gov. The written public comment period for these documents

Preserving, enhancing, and restoring the San Francisco Bay Area's waters for over 50 years

ends on Monday, March 27, 2006. In order to be considered, written comments on the proposed amendment and Staff Report must be received in the office of the Water Board by 5 p.m. on that day.

Public Hearings

The Water Board will receive oral public testimony on the proposed amendment at the April hearing. All evidence, testimony, and exhibits proposed to be offered at the hearing (except rebuttal testimony, non-evidentiary policy statements, general vicinity maps, and large, non-technical photographs) must be submitted to Water Board staff no later than April 10, 2006, in order to be considered by the Board. At the conclusion of the April hearing, the Board may recommend that staff make changes to the proposed amendment for consideration at the June hearing. Changes may be based on written comments received or testimony at the April hearing.

The Board will not take action until the June adoption hearing. Staff will release any proposed changes to the proposed amendment prior to the June hearing date. Written comments and oral public testimony at the June hearing will be limited to comments on changes to the proposed amendment made after the April hearing.

The public hearings will be conducted in accordance with 23 Cal. Code of Regulations, Section 649.3. Time limits may be imposed on oral testimony; groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson. All exhibits presented at the hearing, including charts, graphs, and other testimony will become property of the Water Board, as they will become part of the official record of the proceedings.

Action on the proposed amendment will be taken in accordance with the Basin Planning process, a regulatory program certified under Section 21080.5 of California's Public Resources Code as exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact report under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; PRC section 2100 et seq.), and with other applicable laws and regulations.

Directions and special arrangements

A map and directions to the hearing are available online at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/direction.htm>. The hearing venue is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations should contact Mary Tryon, 510.622.2399, mtryon@waterboards.ca.gov, at least five business days before a meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1.800.735.2929, or voice line at 1.800.735.2922.